| MAYUMI OKAMOTO (SBN 253243) Office of Enforcement State Water Resources Control Board 1001 I Street, 16" Floor Sacramento, California 95814 Telephone: 916-341-5889 Fax: 916-341-5889 E-mail: rsato@waterboards.ca.gov Attorneys for the Water Rights Prosecution Team BEFORE THE STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD In the matter of DIVISION OF WATER RIGHTS California American Water Company Cease and Desist Order Hearing In the matter of DIVISION OF WATER RIGHTS DRAISE SECUTION TEAM'S CLOSING BRIEF California American Water Company Cease and Desist Order Hearing DIVISION OF WATER RIGHTS DRAISE SECUTION TEAM'S CLOSING BRIEF California American Water Company Cease and Desist Order Hearing DIVISION OF WATER RIGHTS DRAISE SECUTION TEAM'S CLOSING DRAISE SECUTION TEAM'S C | 1 | YVONNE M. WEST (SBN 221414) | | | | |
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I. INTRODUCTION

The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) Order WR 95-10 (Order 95-10) held that Cal-Am was illegally diverting water from the Carmel River to serve users on the Monterey Peninsula. By adopting Order 95-10 the State Water Board chose to *defer*, not abdicate, enforcement against California American Water Company (Cal-Am) for violation of Water Code section 1052. (Order 95-10, p. 39.) The State Water Board should now exercise its enforcement authority granted by California Water Code section 1831(d) and adopt Draft Cease and Desist Order WR 2008-00XX-DWR (Draft CDO) with the minor modifications recommended herein.

Order 95-10 required Cal-Am to: "(1) prepare a plan setting forth (a) specific actions which will be taken to develop or obtain a legal supply of water and (b) the dates specific actions will have occurred so that progress on the plan can be objectively monitored, (2) minimize its diversions for the Carmel River, and (3) mitigate the environmental effects of its diversions." (Order 95-10, pp.39-40.) Order 95-10 was a stop-gap measure to minimize impacts on the public trust until the Los Padres Dam Project could be completed and Cal-Am's illegal diversions terminated.

It is now over 13 years after the adoption of Order 95-10 and Cal-Am still has not: (1) prepared a definitive plan for obtaining a legal supply of water with milestones for which Cal-Am can be held accountable, (2) decreased its illegal diversions beyond the 20 percent reduction first required in 1997, and (3) mitigated to the fullest extent possible the adverse environmental effects of its illegal diversions. The State Water Board is faced again with Cal-Am's unauthorized diversion and Cal-Am's assertions that it is pursuing a large alternative supply project with an uncertain chance of success and no contingency plan.

In asking the State Water Board to exercise its authority under Water Code section 1831(d) it is not necessary for the Prosecution Team to demonstrate that Cal-Am's illegal diversions are having adverse impacts on the public trust. Nor is the Prosecution Team required to show that the Draft CDO will benefit public trust resources. The State Water

Board has legal authority to curtail illegal diversions, period. The public trust impacts are relevant to the remedy requested herein because, as all the Parties have acknowledged, it is practically impossible to require Cal-Am to cease its illegal diversions immediately. Instead, a balance must be struck between ending illegal diversions, protecting the fishery and other public trust resources in the Carmel River, and the health and safety needs of the community in the Monterey Peninsula area. For the reasons discussed in greater detail below, the Prosecution Team believes that the Draft CDO with the minor changes recommended herein strikes a fair and enforceable balance between these competing interests.

II. THE PROSECUTION TEAM HAS PRESENTED SUFFICIENT EVIDENCE TO ESTABLISH THAT CAL-AM IS UNLAWFULLY DIVERTING WATER FROM THE CARMEL RIVER IN EXCESS OF ITS RECOGNIZED LEGAL RIGHT AND THAT THE REMEDY PROPOSED IN THE DRAFT CEASE AND DESIST ORDER (CDO) IS REASONABLE.

The "burden of proof" means the obligation of a party to establish by evidence a requisite degree of belief concerning a fact in the mind of the trier of fact or, in the present case, the hearing officers of the State Water Board. (Evid. Code, § 115.) The burden of proof, including both the initial burden of going forward and the burden of persuasion by a preponderance of the evidence, is on the party asserting the affirmative of an issue before an administrative agency. (*McCoy v. Board of Retirement* (1986) 183 Cal.App.3d 1044, 1051 fn. 5.)

Accordingly, the Prosecution Team has the burden of proof of establishing that Cal-Am is unlawfully diverting water from the Carmel River and that the Draft CDO is a reasonable remedy. Likewise, the converse is also true. The parties asserting a claim that the time schedule in the Draft CDO will unreasonably impact public health and safety have the burden of showing by a preponderance of the evidence that their claims are validly supported by the requisite evidence. The Prosecution Team has satisfied its burden of proving by a preponderance of the evidence that Cal-Am is unlawfully diverting water from the Carmel River in excess of 3,376 acre feet per annum (afa) and that the proposed reductions in the Draft CDO are reasonable.

III. CAL-AM'S DIVERSIONS FROM THE CARMEL RIVER IN EXCESS OF 3,376 AFA ARE UNLAWFUL AND CONSTITUTE A CONTINUING TRESPASS REQUIRING THE ISSUANCE OF THE DRAFT CDO.

Order 95-10 established Cal-Am's valid right to divert from the Carmel River as 3,376 afa comprised of 1,137 afa of pre-1914 appropriative rights, 60 afa of riparian rights, and 2,179 afa of appropriative rights under License 11866. (Order 95-10, p. 25, fn. 16.) As presented in the Prosecution Team's case-in-chief, since the issuance of Order 95-10, Cal-Am has annually diverted an average of 10,978 afa from the Carmel River. (PT-11A, p. 2; Hearing Transcript, Phase I Thursday June 19, 2008, p. 40, lines 17-21.) Therefore, Cal-Am has diverted an annual average of 7,632 afa without a valid basis of right. (Hearing Transcript, Phase I Thursday June 19, 2008, p. 41, lines 12-14.) The diversion or use of water in a manner other than as authorized by Division 2 of the Water Code is a trespass. (Wat. Code, § 1052.) Diverting water without a valid basis of right necessarily means that the diversion does not comport with the related provisions of the Water Code, specifically those that establish a comprehensive statutory scheme for the lawful appropriation of water.

a. Order 95-10 cannot be interpreted as an appropriative permit to divert water.

Order 95-10 cannot be viewed as an appropriative permit authorizing the continued illegal diversion of water because the specific requirements regarding the issuance of a permit to appropriate water have not been satisfied. Water Code section 1225 states that no right to appropriate or use water subject to appropriation shall be initiated or acquired except upon compliance with the provisions of Division 2 of the Water Code. (Wat. Code, § 1225.) Beginning in 1914, a statutory scheme has provided the exclusive method of acquiring appropriation rights. (*United States v. State Water Resources Control Board* (1986) 182 Cal.App.3d 82, 102 citing *People v. Shirokow* (1980) 26 Cal.3d 301, 308.) An application for appropriative rights must now be made to the State Water Board for a permit authorizing constructions of necessary water works and the taking and use of a

specified quantity of water. (Wat. Code, § 1201 et seq.; *United States v. State Water Resources Control Board*, 182 Cal.App.3d at 102.) Water Code section 1375 establishes a specific process for obtaining a water rights permit. Cal-Am is aware of the specific procedures in place to obtain additional appropriative rights as it has previously applied for additional water right permits. Cal-Am cannot reasonably believe or credibly contend that Order 95-10 substitutes for this statutorily-required process.

Furthermore, the State Water Board intended to preserve its discretion to pursue enforcement in the future should Cal-Am fail to take appropriate action. Section 8.0 of Order 95-10 explains the enforcement options the State Water Board could have chosen in lieu of adopting Order 95-10. Since the proceeding was not noticed under the enforcement provisions of Water Code, the State Water Board could not proceed directly to an administrative civil liability or cease and desist order. (Order 95-10, pp. 36-37.) The State Water Board, however, has always retained its ability to request the Attorney General to enforce violations of Water Code section 1052. At the time of Order 95-10's adoption, enforcement was suspended in favor of adopting Order 95-10 as an interim measure requiring Cal-Am to minimize diversions, mitigate environmental effects, and develop a plan to obtain a legal supply of water because Cal-Am expected the New Los Padres Dam Project to come to fruition in the near future. (*Id.* at 38.)

The time for suspending enforcement under Water Code section 1052 has come to an end. Order 95-10 was intended to provide Cal-Am with interim relief until a reliable and legal water supply came online in the form of the New Los Padres Dam. Order 95-10 is no longer relevant to the situation on the Monterey Peninsula because it does not contain adequate long-term mitigation measures or diversion reduction requirements beyond the 20 percent reduction imposed in 1997.

b. Cal-Am has not satisfied the requirements of Condition 2 of Order 95-10 and therefore the Draft CDO should be issued.

Throughout the Draft CDO hearing, Cal-Am contended that it could not be held

liable under Water Code section 1052 so long as its actions complied with Condition 2 of Order 95-10. Specifically, Cal-Am stated "Order 95-10 requires a finding of liability in this case only if the Prosecution Team demonstrates a violation of Condition 2 of Order 95-10. To make that showing, the Prosecution Team must show that California American Water has not been diligent in its pursuit of an alternate water supply." (Hearing Transcript, Phase I Friday June 20, 2008, p. 359, lines 15-20.) This contention misstates the requirements of Condition 2 of Order 95-10.

Condition 2 of Order 95-10 states "Cal-Am shall diligently *implement* one or more of the following actions to *terminate* its unlawful diversions from the Carmel River:

(1) obtain appropriative permits for water being unlawfully diverted from the Carmel River;

(2) obtain water from other sources of supply and make one-for-one reductions in unlawful diversion from the Carmel River, provided that water pumped from the Seaside aquifer shall be governed by condition 4 of this Order not this condition; and/or (3) contract with another agency having appropriative rights to divert and use water from the Carmel River." (Order 95-10, p. 40, emphasis added.) The State Water Board clearly intended Cal-Am to *terminate* its unlawful diversions through one or more of the specified actions, not merely diligent pursue of alternate water supplies or diligently pursue a plan to obtain alternate water supplies.

Since the issuance of Order 95-10, Cal-Am has not perfected additional appropriative rights over its previously recognized rights of 3,376 afa. (Hearing Transcript, Phase I Thursday June 19, 2008, p. 46, lines 3-13.) Cal-Am has not submitted any contracts to the Division of Water Rights indicating that it purchased other existing rights to divert from the Carmel River. (*Id.* at p. 47, line 25.) Finally, while the Prosecution Team acknowledges that Cal-Am has implemented Phase I of the Aquifer Storage and Recovery project as a new source of water, the yield from this new source of

water is not sufficient to terminate Cal-Am's unlawful diversions. As such, the water being diverted by Cal-Am since the issuance of Order 95-10 must be recognized as an unlawful diversion constituting a trespass.

c. Cal-Am's argument that it has complied with Condition 2 of Order 95-10 does not preclude the State Water Board from issuing a Cease and Desist Order for a violation of Water Code section 1052.

In its May 29, 2008 decision regarding the scope of the issues for Phase I of the Draft CDO Hearing, the Hearing Officers indicated that a cease and desist order could be issued on several theories of liability; (1) for a violation of Water Code section 1052, or (2) for a violation of Order 95-10, or (3) on both theories of liability. (Procedural Issues Involving Consideration of a Cease and Desist Order Against California American Water Company: Request By The California American Water Company For Clarification And Motion For Temporary Postponement Of Proceedings, May 29, 2008, p. 2.) In reference to finding liability based on a violation of Order 95-10, the scope of the this theory of liability was narrowed to consider violations of Condition 2 of Order 95-10 while still recognizing that violations of conditions other than or in addition to Condition 2 remain relevant to support issuing a CDO on either basis of liability. (*Ibid.*)

Under Water Code section 1831, the State Water Board may issue a cease and desist order in response to a violation or threatened violation of Water Code section 1052 regarding the unauthorized diversion or use of water. (Wat. Code, § 1831.) Cal-Am's compliance with Order 95-10 is not dispositive of whether the CDO may be issued pursuant to Water Code section 1831. The proposed CDO is warranted because of Cal-Am's unlawful diversion of water is a continuing violation of Water Code section 1052. Cal-Am's compliance or good faith efforts to comply with Condition 2 of Order 95-10 do not preclude issuance of the proposed CDO or any other enforcement action based on the continued unlawful diversion of water from the Carmel River. Order 95-10 was not

adopted to the exclusion of other and future remedies, such as those provided for in the Draft CDO, so long as the unlawful diversion constituting a trespass under Water Code section 1052 continued.

IV. THE DRAFT CDO APPROPRIATELY ADDRESSES THE ADVERSE IMPACTS THAT CAL-AM'S DIVERSIONS HAVE CAUSED ON PUBLIC TRUST RESOURCES AND BENEFICIAL USES OF THE CARMEL RIVER.

Order 95-10 previously identified the effects of Cal-Am's diversions from the Carmel River on instream beneficial uses. The effects identified in 1995 included the loss of riparian habitat in the lower river and the near extinction of the steelhead run. (Order 95-10, p. 25.) Thirteen years later, Cal-Am's diversions are still causing similar impacts on instream beneficial uses and public trust resources. The purpose of the remedy proposed in the Draft CDO is to ultimately terminate Cal-Am's unlawful diversions from the Carmel River. However, the reductions in diversions will also serve to benefit Carmel River resources, particularly the productivity of the steelhead population.

a. Adverse impacts to steelhead and riparian habitat resulted from the illegal diversions.

The Carmel River provides essential habitat during the life cycle of steelhead. While adult steelhead migrate into the Carmel River to spawn in the winter months and either die or return to the ocean, juvenile steelhead are present and rear in the river year-round. (PT – 39, p. 4.) Decreases in surface flows have significant adverse effects on the steelhead and its critical habitat. Overcrowding in areas where stream flow still remains occurs due to the decreasing availability of habitat for juvenile rearing. (*Ibid.*) Increased predation takes place because the steelhead become stranded and trapped in isolated pools as the stream channel dries back. (*Ibid.*) Although fish rescue activities arguably save some steelhead that would otherwise die from stranding, the stress from the rescue and crowded conditions in the upper river segments or at the Sleepy Hollow Steelhead Rearing Facility also cause fish mortality. Up to fifty percent of the steelhead that are actually rescued and brought to the facility die for a variety of reasons from high

water temperatures and disease to predation. (*Id.* at 5.) Additionally, the riparian habitat along the Carmel River has been impacted due to Cal-Am's unlawful diversions. Riparian vegetation is an essential component of maintaining the steelheads' spawning and rearing habitat. The vegetation serves multiple functions and provides a food source as well as shade to keep water temperatures lower. (Hearing Transcript, Phase II Wednesday July 23, 2008, p. 86, lines 19-23.) Due to Cal-Am's diversions, the riparian vegetation has died off and caused bank erosion resulting in increased sedimentation of the River. (*Id.* p. 45, lines 8-9.) As a result, landowners along the river have hardened the banks with rip-rap to prevent bank erosion while simultaneously preventing the regrowth of vegetation along the river. (*Id.* p. 45, lines 3-7.)

b. Order 95-10 and subsequent amendments to Order 95-10 are insufficient to protect the beneficial uses of the Carmel River at this time.

Since the issuance of Order 95-10, subsequent measures regarding adjustments in diversion practices have been developed to assist in mitigating the impacts to steelhead habitat caused by Cal-Am's diversions. These subsequent measures have adjusted diversions in order to keep portions of the river wetted during critical rearing times during the steelhead's lifecycle. Most notably, the 2001 Conservation Agreement signed by Cal-Am and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) modified Cal-Am's pumping operations by requiring Cal-Am to pump from the most downstream wells to maintain surface stream flow in the Carmel River as far downstream as possible during the low flow season. (PT - 47.) Portions of the Conservation Agreement were also adopted in State Water Board Order WQO 2002-002. (State Water Board Order WQO 2002-002, p. 18-19.) Both the Conservation Agreement and State Water Board Order WQO 2002-002 responded to issues raised in Condition 6 of Order 95-10 by requiring Cal-Am to conduct a study and evaluate whether its then existing diversions to the Carmel Valley Filter Plant could be changed in order to maintain more surface flow for fish habitat maintenance. (Order 95-10, p. 41.)

Despite the adjustments in diversions, the steelhead population in the Carmel

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River has seen a 49 percent to 79 percent decline in numbers from 2001 to 2008. (PT – 39, p. 4.) In 2004, 2005, and 2006, the adult steelhead returns to the dam totaled only in the mid-300's (388, 328, 368 fish, respectively). (*Ibid.*) In 2007 and 2008, the total counts at the dam were only 222 and 412 adults respectively. (*Ibid.*)

During Phase II of the Draft Cease and Desist Order hearing, Monterey Peninsula Water Management District (MPWMD) provided testimony indicating that the number of juvenile steelhead has increased since the issuance of Order 95-10, the Conservation Agreement, and Order 2002-002. (MPWMD KU-1, p. 4, lines 13-21.) However, the increase of juvenile steelhead has necessarily resulted in a potential record number of juvenile steelhead rescued from the river due to a lack of surface flow in the steelhead's natural habitat. (Id. at p. 4, lines 10-12.) As previously mentioned, a percentage of fish that are rescued are either killed during capture or experience high mortality rates once they are placed in the rearing facility. (PT - 39, p. 5.) Although arguably juvenile steelhead production has increased, an insufficient amount of surface flow in the river could potentially cancel out progress in productivity of the species because the factors associated with pumping will affect the habitat and will result in the death of a large percentage of the juvenile steelhead prior to adulthood. Further adjustments in the form of cutbacks in diversions are needed in order to protect the beneficial uses of the Carmel River and to improve the critical habitat of juvenile steelhead that spawn and rear in the river year-round.

c. Increasing the amount of surface flow in the Carmel River by terminating Cal-Am's unlawful diversions will benefit steelhead and aid steelhead productivity.

Although decreasing and ultimately terminating Cal-Am's unlawful diversions would allow for the water to remain in the river, data does not exist to show the exact number of fish that decreasing diversions will yield. However, decreasing and terminating diversions will significantly benefit steelhead habitat, which play a crucial role in survival and development of the species. This assertion is based on the basic premise that the fish

need water not only to survive in their habitat but also to ensure productivity and ultimately recover the species. In his testimony during Phase II of the hearing, MPWMD biologist Kevan Urquhart stated that "additional measures are needed to recover the steelhead population to a long-term stable level that does not pose any risk of extinction, and additional measures are needed to reduce any existing risk of extinction." (Hearing Transcript, Phase II Friday July 25, 2008, p. 781, lines 16-20.)

One of the additional measures discussed during Phase II of the hearing included surface flow enhancement to rewater portions of the Carmel River further downstream in the critical spawning and rearing habitat. Cessation of diversions is the most obvious additional measure to enhance surface flow and rewater habitat. (Hearing Transcript, Phase II Friday July 25, 2008, p. 909, lines 12-19.) To the extent that the final CDO could keep any significant amount of additional stream habitat wetted throughout the summer and fall, it would likely result in additional fall production of juvenile steelhead for the watershed as a whole. (MPWMD KU-1, p. 11, lines 12-17.)

The proposed reductions in diversions in the Draft CDO accomplish the goal of surface flow enhancement in order to rewater critical portions of the Carmel River. Particularly, the proposed reductions of 35 percent and 50 percent will likely have the most measurable impact on the fishery. (Hearing Transcript, Phase II Friday July 25, 2008, p. 907, lines 5-10.) To the degree that a reduction in diversions caused rewatering farther downstream, it would result in additional smolt production which could be assumed to result in additional adult production. (*Id.* at p. 785, lines 3-8.)

Concerns were raised by Cal-Am during Phase II of the Draft CDO Hearing regarding increased surface and subsurface water extractions by other water right holders and the extractions' potential affects on steelhead. (Hearing Transcript, Phase II Wednesday July 23, 2008, pp. 148-149.) The State Water Board recognized in Decision 1632 that there are other individuals and entities that hold water rights to take and use water from the Carmel River. The water rights of these individuals and entities include riparian, overlying, and pre-1914 appropriative rights and are collectively referred

to as "Table 13" rights. (Decision 1632, p. 44.)

While the State Water Board in Decision 1632 recognized that the diversions of Cal-Am and other Table 13 water right holders are not the sole cause of public trust resource depletion, the State Water Board concluded that Cal-Am's combined diversions from the Carmel River constitute the largest single impact to instream beneficial uses of the river. (Decision 1632, p. 93-94.) Additionally, NMFS identified Cal-Am as "responsible for approximately 85% of the total water diversions from the Carmel River system and its associated subterranean flow." (PT – 45, p. 1.) Therefore, reducing and ultimately terminating total water diversions of the largest diverter on the Carmel River would benefit steelhead by making more water available to allow the steelhead to survive in their natural habitat.

V. NEITHER CAL-AM NOR ANY DESIGNATED PARTY PROVIDED EVIDENCE THAT THE DRAFT CDO WOULD ADVERSELY IMPACT THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY OF THOSE WITHIN THE CAL-AM SERVICE AREA.

As discussed above, generally, the burden of proof is on the party asserting the affirmative of an issue before an administrative agency. (*McCoy v. Board of Retirement*, 183 Cal.App.3d at 1051.) As applied to this hearing, the burden of proof is on the Prosecution Team to establish by a preponderance of the evidence that (1) Cal-Am is in violation of Water Code section 1052 and (2) that the reductions in diversions from the Carmel River laid out in the Draft CDO is a reasonable remedy to address a violation of section 1052. However as elaborated below, the burden of proof is shifted to a party's adversary in certain circumstances. Where the evidence is necessary to establish a fact essential to a claim lies peculiarly within the knowledge and competence of one of the parties, that party has the burden of going forward with the evidence on the issue. (*In re Estate of Jones* (2004) 18 Cal.Rptr.3d 637.)

The Prosecution Team has met its burden of proof by offering testimony to establish by a preponderance of the evidence addressing both issues. Throughout Phase II of the Draft CDO hearing, all parties emphasized that any proposed reduction schedule adopted by the State Water Board should not impact public health and safety in

the Monterey Peninsula area. In preparing the reduction schedule in the Draft CDO, health and safety concerns were taken into account. However, a specific standard articulating the requisite amount of water needed to protect public health and safety does not exist. The Division of Water Rights staff attempted to take into account past and current water use on the Monterey Peninsula and factor in additional conservation measures that could amount to additional water savings.

Specifically, Mark Stretars provided testimony explaining that staff used the guideline of 75 gallons per person per day as the amount of water necessary for residential use for Cal-Am customers in the Monterey area. (Hearing Transcript, Phase II Wednesday July 23, 2008, p. 55, lines 22-25.) During Phase I of the hearing, Darby Fuerst testified that current per capita per day residential use consumption amounts to 70 gallons per person. (Hearing Transcript, Phase II Friday July 25, 2008, p. 758, lines 7-9.) The average per capita per day consumption, taking into account all uses of water within the Monterey Peninsula, is approximately 99 gallons per person per day. (*Id.* at p. 807, line 25.) The total urban water demand for all water uses served by Cal-Am was 12,375 acre-feet in Water Year 2007 (Sand City – 1, Exhibit A). The average per capita consumptive rate of 99 gallons per person per day can be reliably calculated by dividing the total urban water demand of 12, 375 AFA by the total population served of 111,500 persons (12,375 AFA/111,500 x 325,851 gal/af/365 days= 99 gpppd).

Mr. Stretars relied on the California Code of Regulations, title 23, section 697 to establish an average consumptive use rate for reasonable potable water use. This regulation was promulgated and implemented to carry out the State Water Board's powers and duties under the Water Code. (Wat. Code, § 1058.) These powers and duties include issuing appropriative permits to divert and use water and ensuing that the water is being put to beneficial use. (Wat. Code, §§ 1240, 1252.) Section 697 provides guidance on how to carry out the mandates identified in Water Code sections 1240 and 1252. Section 697 provides guidance on estimating reasonable domestic use in the amount of 75 gallons per day for a fully plumbed residence for the purpose of applying for

an appropriative permit. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 23, § 697(b).) In the absence of a specific standard articulating the requisite amount of water necessary for the maintenance of public health and safety, it is reasonable to rely on administrative guidance on reasonable domestic use as this section was promulgated by the State Water Board, the entity possessing the technical skills and expertise on water use and regulation.

Considering existing information on the average per capita consumption ranging from 70 to 99 gallons per person per day and regulatory guidance on the amount of water considered reasonable for domestic use, the Prosecution Team contends that 75 gallons per person per day is reasonably estimate of water quantity necessary to protect public health and safety. Evidence that Cal-Am was able to reduces its per capita demand to 50 gallons per person per day and still maintain the health and safety of the community during the 1977-1978 drought supports the Prosecution Team's assertion that 75 gallon per person per day is a reasonable estimate of total water use necessary to protect public health and safety. (MPWMD-DF9A, p. 6, lines 3-12.) The Prosecution Team also recognizes that achieving this level of daily per capita water use could require reductions in outside watering and other uses of water. Regardless, as discussed in detail in Section VI below, the reduction schedule in the Draft CDO will not necessarily require implementing such stringent reductions.

Although evidence exists on the average daily per capita water use is available, data on the overall percentage breakdown of indoor versus outdoor water use was not presented by Cal-Am during these proceedings. This information would be particularly useful in determining the amount of outside watering and other uses of water that could reasonably be conserved without jeopardizing public health and safety.

Data quantifying and comparing indoor water use with outdoor use is peculiarly within the knowledge and competence of Cal-Am and is essential in supporting Cal-Am's argument that achieving the reduction schedule in the Draft CDO is unreasonable.

During Phase II of the hearing, Cal-Am contended that although it was generally aware of this data through metered use and customer information, it was working with the Public

Utilities Commission on confidentiality issues regarding customer data. (Hearing Transcript, Phase II Friday August 8, 2008, p. 1299, lines 2-6.) Under this circumstance, the burden of going forward with evidence on the issue of public health and safety should be shifted to Cal-Am to (1) show that the general guideline of 75 gallons per person per day as the estimated amount of water necessary for maintaining public health and safety is not reasonable and (2) provide data on indoor verses outdoor water use to demonstrate why compliance with the Draft CDO reduction schedule is not achievable with reductions in uses of water other than domestic use.

The Prosecution Team has met its burden of proof explaining why 75 gallons per person per day is a reasonable amount of water to protect public health and safety in the absence of a fact specific standard articulating a minimum amount of water required. If Cal-Am contends that this level of use cannot be achieved through reductions in other uses of water including outside watering, then Cal-Am has the burden of going forward with evidence to support this contention since the data that would support this argument is peculiarly within its knowledge.

VI. THE REDUCTION SCHEDULE PROPOSED IN THE DRAFT CDO IS REASONABLE AND SHOULD NOT BE MATERIALLY MODIFIED

The Prosecution Team recommends that the reduction schedule proposed in the Draft CDO be adopted with the minor modification that required reductions not begin until water year 2009-2010 because the 2008-2009 water year has begun prior to the conclusion of these proceedings and the adoption of the Draft CDO. The revised reduction schedule is recommended as follows:

| | Water | | Allowable Diversion |
|---|-----------|---------------------|--------------------------|
| | Year* | Percent Reduction** | Amount from Carmel River |
| | | | |
| | 2008 – 09 | 0 percent | 0 AFA |
| | 2009 – 10 | 15 percent | 9,592 AFA |
| • | 2010 — 11 | 15 percent | 9,592 AFA |
| , | 2011 – 12 | 20 percent | 9,028 AFA |
| | 2012 – 13 | 20 percent | 9,028 AFA |

| 2013 – 14 | 35 percent | 7,335 AFA |
|-----------|------------|-----------|
| 2014 – 15 | 35 percent | 7,335 AFA |
| 201516 | 50 percent | 5,642 AFA |

There have been court proceedings adjudicating the Seaside Groundwater Basin. (*California American Water v. City of Seaside et al.*, (CAW-5); referred to hereafter as "Seaside Basin Adjudication.") The Seaside Basin Adjudication does not require any material changes to the proposed reduction schedule because: (1) the percentage reduction in pumping imposed by that decision are avoidable in some instances; and (2) assuming that the pumping reduction from the Seaside Basin Adjudication are imposed, the proposed reduction schedule in the Draft CDO is still reasonable.

The Seaside Basin Adjudication imposes progressive percentage reductions in the amount of water that can be taken from the Seaside groundwater basin unless one of the following conditions is met:

- a. The Watermaster has secured and is adding an equivalent amount of Non-Native water to the Basin on an annual basis; or
- b. The Watermaster has secured reclaimed water in an equivalent amount and has contracted with one or more of the Producers to utilize said water in lieu of their production Allocation, with the Producer agreeing to forego their right to claim a Stored Water Credit for such forbearance; or
- c. Any combination of a and b which results in the decrease in Production of Native Water required by this decision; or
- d. The Watermaster has determined that Groundwater levels within the Santa Margarita and Paso Robles aquifers are at sufficient levels to ensure a positive offshore gradient to prevent seawater intrusion.

(Seaside Basin Adjudication, CAW-5, p. 18.)

Accordingly, there are circumstances under which the Seaside Basin Adjudication would not require Cal-Am to reduce its pumping from the Seaside groundwater basin and that water would be available for use by Cal-Am customers in the Carmel River service area. (*Ibid.*) In years where a reduction in yield from the Seaside groundwater basin is

required, the Draft CDO reduction schedule as revised herein, is still reasonable.

The table attached here to as Exhibit A is a summary of Cal-Am reductions required by the Draft CDO and the Seaside Basin Adjudication as compared to new yield from alternative sources. The last column of Exhibit A adjusts any yield deficit to take into account that Cal-Am has not had to maximize withdrawals from those two sources to meet customer demand in over 10 years. (MPWMD DF-3.)

Exhibit A demonstrates that the total reductions required by the Seaside Basin Adjudication and revised Draft CDO schedule combined can be substantially compensated for by estimated new yield from additional sources and improved efficiency of the Cal-Am distribution system until 2014 when the reductions from the Carmel River increase to 35 percent. Cal-Am can off-set the initial reduction requirements by obtaining alternative water supplies and improving its system efficiencies. Cal-Am's current unaccounted for water losses are 12 percent (approx. 1716 AFA) of its annual yield. (Hearing Transcript, Phase I Friday June 20, 2008, p. 443, lines 1-5.) Approximately 60 percent or 1024 AFA of Cal-Am's unaccounted for water losses are real water losses. (PT – 54 (subject to granting of Prosecution Team request for judicial notice submitted concurrently), pp. 4-10.) Exhibit A assumes that Cal-Am will implement an aggressive plan to reduce unaccounted for water losses and that such losses can be minimized by 2012.

Exhibit A shows a yield deficit for water years 2012 through 2014. The yield deficit for water years 2012 and 2013 are under 100 AFA. This level of deficit should be reasonably attainable through implementation of water conservation measures similar to those required in Stage 3 of MPWMD's Rule 164. (PT - 52E, p. 1 ("[f]ifteen percent reduction in the Cal-Am system are achieved through Stage 3 Water Conservation.").) At 35 percent reduction of diversion in water year 2014 the yield deficit is just under 2,000 AFA until the Coastal Water Project is completed. The Coastal Water Project is currently scheduled to supply additional water beginning in 2015. (CAW-044.) Accordingly, 2014 may be the only water year with a yield deficit that would require water

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conservation measures such as rationing by user category, per-capita water rations, and/or a moratorium on water permits that intensify water use. There may be additional water supply sources outside of those accounted for in Exhibit A that could be developed in the interim between now and when the 20 percent and 50 percent reductions are required. For example, one potential source discussed during the hearing but not considered in Exhibit A is water that is dedicated to, but not being used by Fort Ord. (Hearing Transcript, Phase II Thursday July 24, 2008, pp. 401-403, 452.)

Even if additional sources not considered in Exhibit A are not developed, the currently projected yield deficits in water years 2012 through 2014 should be obtainable through conservation measures. Water Year 2014 has the largest potential deficit and could require Cal-Am and MPWMD to impose stringent short- term conservation measures. Regardless, the level of conservation necessary to meet the reductions required in 2014 should be obtainable for a short period considering that in the past residential water users in the same service area were required to limit use to 50 gallons per capita per day during the severe 1976-1977 drought period. (MPWMD-DF9A, pp. 5-6.)

It is impossible to develop a reduction schedule that accounts for every possible contingency. Accordingly, if circumstances beyond Cal-Am's control change and compliance with the reduction schedule proposed herein become unattainable without endangering the health and safety of Cal-Am's customers, then Cal-Am can seek relief from the Division of Water Rights. Section VI.a. below discusses in greater detail the circumstances under which the revised Draft CDO would permit the Deputy Director of the Division to alter the reduction schedule.

The Draft CDO provides for modifications in the schedule for reduction of diversions if such a reduction could not reasonably be met by Cal-Am.

The Prosecution Team has met its burden of proof establishing that the reduction schedule in the Draft CDO is reasonable. One of the factors in assessing the reasonableness of the Draft CDO was the consideration of the amount of water needed

for reasonable use to protect public health and safety. However, if circumstances arise beyond Cal-Am's control that make compliance with the proposed reduction schedule unattainable without impacting public health and safety, then Cal-Am may seek a modification in the reduction schedule from the Division of Water Rights. (Draft CDO, p. 6.) The Draft CDO provides "[t]he State Water Board Deputy Director for Water Rights (Deputy Director) shall have the authority to modify the above reduction diversion schedule upon a showing by Cal-Am or MPWMD that such a reduction would have adverse impacts on health and safety."

In addition to this provision, the Prosecution Team proposes the inclusion of additional consideration factors to assist the Deputy Director of the Division of Water Rights in making a determination that would modify the reduction schedule. The additional consideration factors would require Cal-Am to demonstrate (1) an urgent need for water; (2) water can be diverted without injury to any lawful user of water; (3) water may be diverted and used without unreasonable effect upon fish, wildlife, or other instream beneficial uses; and (4) the proposed diversion and use are in the public interest. An "urgent need" for water would be defined as a sudden, unexpected occurrence, involving a clear and imminent danger, demanding immediate action to prevent or mitigate loss of, or damage to life, health, property, or essential public services. While the purpose of the Draft CDO is to terminate Cal-Am's unlawful diversions from the Carmel River in a timely manner, the Prosecution Team recognizes that an uncontrollable event, like a critically dry water year, would warrant a modification in the reduction time schedule.

VII. ALLEGED ECONOMIC IMPACTS FROM THE DRAFT CDO ARE SPECULATIVE.

The cities of Monterey, Seaside, and Carmel (referred to collectively hereafter as ("Cities") submitted testimony alleging that the Draft CDO would have serious economic impacts. (Monterey-1; Seaside-4; Carmel-1.) The Cities' conclusions concerning potential economic impacts are based on the general assumption that the Draft CDO will result in a moratorium on new connections and water rationing that would limit or prohibit

the replacement or remodeling of existing homes or businesses, and new development for an extended period of time. (Monterey-1, pp. 2-3; Seaside-4, p.4; Carmel-1, pp. 2-3.)

The City of Seaside is the only city that actually conducted an economic analysis in an attempt to determine the potential economic impacts of the Draft CDO. (Seaside-9 (hereafter "Seaside's Economic Analysis.").) Seaside's Economic Analysis, however, is an unrealistic worst case scenario.

Specifically, Seaside's Economic Analysis assumes that adoption of the Draft CDO "will cause a moratorium on new or expanded water service connections within Cal-Am's service areas, which, in turn, will cause a delay or absence of real property development in the City over a 7-year period (2009 through 2016)." (Seaside-9, p. 1.) In addition to assuming an absolute prohibition on development for the entire period of the proposed reduction schedule, Seaside's Economic Analysis also assumes that every development project currently proposed would otherwise be completed and constructed within the same seven-year period if the Draft CDO is not adopted. (Seaside-9, p. 4.)

The assumptions upon which Seaside's Economic Analysis are based on the worst case scenario and results in an exaggerated estimate for the Draft CDO's potential for economic impact. The Cities were unable to provide information on what level of reduction of illegal diversions would result in the alleged economic impacts. (Hearing Transcript, Phase II Thursday July 24, 2008, pp. 362-363, 386-387, 390-393.)

Similarly, testimony submitted by the Monterey County Hospitality Association ("Hospitality Association") assumes that the Draft CDO will cause economic impact because it will require the closing of hotel rooms to conserve water. (MCHA-003, p. 3.) The economic impacts alleged by the Hospitality Association and the assumption used to derive those impacts are purely speculative.

The Draft CDO does not mandate the specific manner in which Cal-Am must comply with the reduction schedule. Under the terms of the Draft CDO Cal-Am has 90 days to develop a plan for meeting the required reduction in Carmel River diversions. Accordingly, Cal-Am and MPWMD should work with other concerned parties to develop a

plan that minimizes the economic impacts of complying with the Draft CDO.

a. The potential for harsh economic impacts does not make the draft CDO legally improper.

The potential for harsh economic impacts as a result of adopting the Draft CDO is not legal grounds for finding the order improper. To the contrary, federal district courts have refused to balance economic and social utility concerns against the competing interests of protecting endangered species, because "Congress has decided that under the ESA, the balance of hardships always tips sharply in favor of the endangered or threatened species." (Washington Toxics Coal. v. EPA (2005) 413 F.3d 1024, 1035; see also United States v. Glenn-Colusa Irrigation Dist. (1992) 788 F.Supp. 1126, 1132 [Declining to consider the "social utility" of ordering defendant to cease operation of a pumping facility that was taking listed salmonids without a take permit].)

As discussed in greater detail in Section IV.a. above, Cal-Am's illegal diversions have an adverse impact on steelhead and critical habitat. The steelhead population in the Carmel River has been designated a federally listed threatened species under the Endangered Species Act and the entire Carmel River is designated critical habitat for that species. (PT - 39, pp. 1-2.) The Draft CDO requires Cal-Am to reduce its illegal diversions from the Carmel River over a seven-year period. Adopting and implementing the Draft CDO will restore critical habitat and prevent the taking of listed species. (Hearing Transcript, Phase II Friday July 25, 2008, p. 909, lines 12-19.) Accordingly, even if the SWRCB finds that the Draft CDO has the potential to cause harsh economic impacts, that finding is not proper legal grounds for declining to adopt the Draft CDO.

b. Harsh economic impacts from draft CDO can be avoided.

The potential for harsh economic impact from the Draft CDO can be avoided by Cal-Am's development of alternative water supplies and facility improvements that will reduce unaccounted for water loss. As discussed in Section VI, the reduction schedule in the Draft CDO could initially be met by a combination of alternative water sources and increases in Cal-Am system efficiency and some moderate amount of water conservation

until water year 2014 when more substantial conservation measures would be necessary. Furthermore, in Section VI.a., the Deputy Director can modify the reduction schedule upon request from Cal-Am if the reductions cannot be met without endangering public health and safety.

VIII. CAL-AM HAS THE ABILITY TO COMPEL EXISTING CUSTOMERS TO REDUCE WATER USE AND IMPOSE A CONNECTION BAN ON NEW USERS.

Cal-Am references Public Utilities Code section 451 as imposing a duty to provide water to customers within Cal-Am's service area. (Cal-Am Pre-Hearing Brief, p.3, lines14-16.) Cal-Am's duty to provide water service, however, is not absolute. Public Utility Code section 2711 recognizes that there could be circumstances in which a water provider's supply is inadequate to meet the demands of all its existing customers and requires that limited supplies must be apportioned ratably among customers.

Furthermore, Cal-Am's duty to serve does not extend to all potential water users within Cal-Am's service area when water is limited to the point where adding additional connections to the water system would impair Cal-Am's ability to serve current customers. (Pub. Util. Code, § 2708.) A public utility's refusal to extend service to new customers within a service area is reasonable when the resource demanded becomes limited. (*Swanson v. Marin Municipal Water District* (1976), 56 Cal.App.3d 512.)

Water Code sections 350 through 358 provides the procedure and necessary findings by which Cal-Am can adopt regulations restricting use by existing customers and/or adopting a moratorium on new connections. Prior to implementing restrictions on water users or imposing a moratorium on new connections, Cal-Am must declare a water shortage emergency, develop water supply priorities, and draft regulations and restrictions on water use for the Carmel River service area. (Water Code, §§ 350–358.)

Cal-Am must then obtain approval from the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to impose restriction on use and/or a moratorium on connections. (Wat. Code, § 2701.) Presumably, Cal-Am is familiar with this process and has already declared a water shortage emergency for the Carmel River service area because Cal-Am has

applied to the CPUC in the past for approval of water conservation plans and connection bans.

Public Utility Code section 2708 authorizes the CPUC to approve a moratorium on new connections. Specifically, section 2708 provides in part:

Whenever the commission . . . finds that any water company which is a public utility operating within this State has reached the limit of its capacity to supply water and that no further consumers of water can be supplied from the system of such utility without injuriously withdrawing the supply wholly or in part from those who have theretofore been supplied by the corporation, the commission may order and require that no such corporation shall furnish water to any new or additional consumers until the order is vacated or modified by the commission. . .

Cal-Am has filed applications with the CPUC in the past seeking approval of water rationing plans and moratoriums on certain new connections in order to comply with State Water Board Order 95-10. (In Re California American Water Company (1998) 81 CPUC 2d 648; Cal. P.U.C. Dec. No. 05-04-005.) Cal-Am's most recent application to impose a new connection ban was rejected by the CPUC on various grounds including; (1) that MPWMD has the statutory authority to impose a moratorium or other restriction on water use if necessary and already limits new and expanded water uses; and (2) that compliance with Order 95-10 is obtainable through conservation rates and other incentives being employed by Cal-Am and MPWMD. (California American Water Company (2005) Cal. P.U.C. Dec. No. 05-04-005, pp. 4-5.) If Cal-Am can demonstrate to the CPUC that its available water supply is inadequate to meet the demands of new and/or existing customers and that additional conservation incentives, connection restrictions and/or curtailments are necessary to meet the terms of a State Water Board imposed CDO, then the CPUC should approve such measures.

MPWMD also has authority through it authorization act to declare a water emergency and restrict water use. (Wat. Code, Appen. 118-332.) MPWMD has in fact exercised this authority in the past and has already established an Expanded Water Conservation and Standby Water Rationing Plan. (PT - 52A-52H.)

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IX. ANY FUTURE ENFORCEMENT OF THE DRAFT CDO THROUGH THE ASSESSMENT OF LIABILITY SHOULD NOT RESULT IN THAT LIABILITY BEING PASSED ON TO THE RATE PAYERS.

In the past, the CPUC has stated that passing fines through to the ratepayers will only be done under extraordinary circumstances when Cal-Am does not have reasonable means to comply with a State Water Board reduction requirement. (81 CPUC 2d 648, p. 9.) Specifically, the CPUC allowed Cal-Am to establish a memorandum account for water years ending September 30, 1998 and September 30, 1999, to record any liability imposed by the State Water Board for failure to meet the cutback requirements established in Order 95-10. (Id. at p. 8.) The CPUC ruled that recovery of any such liability would be subject to the CPUC's review of Cal-Am's system management (including its implementation of conservation program and minimization of system losses) and a finding that Cal-Am took all reasonable steps to avoid over-pumping. (Id. at pp. 8-9.) Assuming the CPUC found that Cal-Am exercised all reasonable means available to it to attempt to achieve compliance, then the CPUC intended that recovery of some portion of that liability from ratepayers would be authorized. (Id. at p. 9.) The CPUC allowed Cal-Am to establish the memorandum account as a stop gap measure for what the CPUC envisioned would be a brief amount of time it would take Cal-Am and MPWMD to get a rationing plan and other measures in place so that Cal-Am could assume full responsibility for managing the water supply in compliance with Order 95-10. (*Ibid.*)

A subsequent request by Cal-Am to reestablish a memorandum account for State Water Board fines was denied. (CAW 031B; California American Water Company (2006) Cal. P.U.C. Dec. No. 06-11-050, p. 32.) The CPUC denied Cal-Am's request on the grounds that Cal-Am now has the necessary water conservation and rationing tools to avoid over-pumping and that Cal-Am, therefore, should be held responsible for operating its water system in a manner that avoids any State Water Board liability. (*Ibid.*)

X. ALTERNATIVES TO THE DRAFT CDO SUGGESTED BY OTHER DESIGNATED PARTIES DO NOT PROVIDE CAL-AM WITH ANY INCENTIVE TO REDUCE ITS ILLEGAL DIVERSIONS FROM THE CARMEL RIVER BASIN.

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¢onne West Attorney for the Water Rights Prosecution Team

MPWMD and the Public Trust Alliance recommended that the Proposed Order not impose a specific reduction schedule, but instead use an adaptive management approach that ties reduction to the completion and implementation of alternative water supply projects. (MPWMD-DF9, p. 6; PTA-4, p. 2.) A reduction schedule that is dependent upon the completion and implementation of alternative water supply projects will not provide an incentive to reduce illegal diversions and does not provide for any meaningful enforcement if sufficient progress toward developing alternative supplies is not obtained.

NMFS and the Sierra Club advocate for adjusting the reduction schedule in the Draft CDO so that reductions in diversion occur at times that would provide the greatest benefit to fisheries. (PT - 39, p.10; SC-1, p. 27.) As an example, NMFS recommends that the in addition to the annual reductions in diversions that during the months of April through October, Cal-Am must reduce its mean daily diversion by the same percentage as the annual diversion reduction during this critical low flow period. (PT - 39, p. 10.) NMFS believes that shaping the annual diversion reductions in this manner will help ensure that most of the water diversion reduction occurs during times of the year when flows in the river are low. (*Ibid.*) The Draft CDO does not mandate the specific manner in which Cal-Am must comply with the reduction schedule and would not preclude adjustments maximizing fishery benefits from reductions in the manner proposed by these parties.

XI. CONCLUSION

Respectfully submitted,

For the reasons provided above, the Prosecution Team request that the Draft CDO be adopted with the revisions recommended herein.

Exhibit A

Required Reductions Compared to Potential New Yield

| | ſ | | = | 9 | | ge | 86 | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 46 | 46 | 1,739 | | | | | |
|---|----------------------------------|-------|----------|---------|---------|-------------|------------|----------------------|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| | | Yielc | Deficit | from | Ϋ́ | Avera | of 14298 | AFAº | | | | · | | 1,7 | | | | | |
| | | | Yield | Deficit | from | max of | 14789 | AFA | 0 | 219 | 0 | 537 | 537 | 2,230 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | | | | | Total | AFA from | New | Sources | 760 | 1,891 | 2,112 | 2,555 | 2,555 | 2,555 | 10,955 | 10,955 | 10,955 | 11,955 | 11,749 |
| · | d¹ | | | | | Coastal | Water | Project ⁵ | | | | | | | 8,400+ | 8,400+ | 8,400+ | 8,400+ | 8,400+ |
| | Estimated New Yield ¹ | | | | Cal Am | System | Efficiency | Savings ⁴ | 0 | 221 | 442 | 885 | 588 | 288 | 885 | 885 | 885 | 885 | 882 |
| | Estimat | | | | Pebble | Beach & | RUWAP | Reclaim | 150 | 450 | 450 | 450 | 450 | 450 | 450 | 450 | 450 | 450 | 450 |
| | | | , | | | | ASB | Plant | 310 | 920 | 920 | 920 | 920 | 920 | 920 | 920 | 920 | 1,920 | 1,920 |
| | | | | | | Sand | City | Desal | 300 | 300 | 300 | 300 | 300 | 300 | 300 | 300 | 300 | 300 | 94 |
| | | | | | | | Total | Reductions | 313 | 2,110 | 2,110 | 3,092 | 3,092 | 4,785 | 5,203 | 968'9 | 968'9 | 7,327 | 7,327 |
| | Required Reductions | | | | Seaside | Groundwater | Reductions | (AFA) ³ | 313 | 417 | 417 | 835 | 835 | 835 | 1,253 | 1,253 | 1,253 | 1,684 | 1,684 |
| | | | | Carmel | River | Draft | CDO | (Percent) | %0 | 15% | 15% | 20% | 20% | 35% | 35% | 20% | 20% | 20% | 20% |
| | | | | Carmel | River | Draft | CDO | $(AFA)^2$ | 0 | 1,693 | 1,693 | 2,257 | 2,257 | 3,950 | 3,950 | 5,643 | 5,643 | 5,643 | 5,643 |
| | | | | | | | Water | Year | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |

¹ Estimates of new yield are from MPMD-HS14-B, unless otherwise noted.

³ Annual percent reductions and associated acre-foot reductions for Cal Am from California American Water v. City of Seaside et al., Case No. M66343 (CAW-² Annual percent reductions and associated acre-foot reductions for Cal Am from Draft CDO delayed by one water year as proposed herein in Section VI.

implementation of a pressure management program based on Division of Ratepayer Advocates, CPUC Report on the Results of Operations, California American Water Company Monterey District, Application 08-01-027 (PT- 54 (subject to request for judicial notice submitted concurrently).) Assumes that 25% of those achieve maximum of 885 AFA savings from reduction of real water losses through implementing aggressive leak detection and repair and the development and ⁴ Assumes a reduction in Cal Am's 12% (approx. 1716 AFA) of unaccounted for water to the maximum extent feasible by 2012. Estimates that Cal-Am can

⁶ Average use for 10 year period of Water Year 1997 through Water Year 2007 from MPWMD DF-3.

savings will be attained in 2010, 50% in 2011 and 100% beginning in 2012.